Gon. O ho, I know the riddle, I will goe. *Enter Edgar*
Edg. If ere your Grace had ſpeech with man ſo poore,
Heare me one word. *Exeunt.*
Alb. Ile ouertake you, ſpeake.
Edg. Before you fight the battell ope this letter,
If you haue victory let the trumpet ſound
For him that brought it, wretched though I ſeeme,
I can produce a champion that will proue
What is auowched there, if you miſcary,
Your buſines of the world hath ſo an end,
Fortune loue you, *Alb.* Stay till I haue read the letter.
Edg. I was forbid it, when time ſhall ſerue let but the Herald
cry, and ile appeare againe. *Exit.*
Alb. Why fare thee well, I will ore-looke the paper.
Enter Edmund.
Baſt. The enemies in vew, draw vp your powers
Hard is the queſſe of their great ſtrength and forces
By diligent diſcouery, but your haſt is now vrg'd on you.
Alb. Wee will greet the time. *Exit.*
Baſt. To both theſe ſiſter haue I ſworne my loue,
Each iealous of the other as the ſting are of the Adder,
Which of them ſhall I take, both one or neither, neither can bee
If both remaine aliue, to take the widdow (inioy'd
Exaſperates, makes mad her ſiſter *Gonerill*,
And hardly ſhall I cary out my ſide
Her husband being aliue, now then we'le vſe
His countenadce for the battaile, which being done
Let her that would be rid of him deuiſe
His ſpeedie taking off, as for his mercy
Which he entends to *Lear* and to *Cordelia*:
The battaile done, and they within our power
Shall neuer ſee his pardon, for my ſtate
Stands on me to defend, not to debate. *Exit.*
Alarum. Enter the powers of France ouer the ſtage, Cordelia with her father in her hand.
Enter Edgar and Gloſter.
Edg. Here father, take the ſhaddow of this buſh
For your good hoaſt, pray that the right may thriue
If